

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-02

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /054 W

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R 130905Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION QUESTION STILL UNRESOLVED

REF: (A) SEOUL 7390; (B) SEOUL 7474

1. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS MET WITH SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON NOV 11 AND AGAIN NOV 13 IN "FINAL" ATTEMPT TO REACH COMPROMISE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ISSUE. SPEAKER CALLED THESE FORMAL MEETINGS WITH VICE SPEAKERS AND PARTY FLOOR LEADERS AFTER HIS BEHIND SCENES EFFORTS FAILED TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES.

2. BOTH SIDES SO FAR HAVE REFUSED TO MODIFY PREVIOUS POSITION (REFTELS). GOVERNMENT IS NOW PUBLICLY OFFERING TO FORM COMMITTEE FOR COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, WHILE NDP CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE BE AUTHORIZED TO DEBATE AND DRAFT NEW ROK CONSTITUTION.

3. NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM TOLD EMBASSY NOV 13 THAT HE IS DOUBTFUL IF COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED. KIM SAID THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 14 DURING WHICH HE WILL OUTLINE HIS OWN PARTY'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND MAY ALSO GIVE SOME INDICATION OF NDP PLAN FOR ACTIONS OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY.

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4. KIM REMARKED THAT HE IS RECEIVING INCREASING PRESSURE FROM OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS TO PUBLICLY OPPOSE VISIT PRESIDENT FORD. HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST SUCH PRESSURES BUT WILL MENTION VISIT DURING PRESS CONFERENCE AND EXPRESS CONCERN THAT VISIT WILL BE UTILIZED BY GOVERNMENT FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

5. VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SUNG HAS TOLD US THAT THERE IS SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT WITHIN NDP OVER KIM'S TACTICS. YI SAID THAT HE AND MANY OTHER OPPOSITION MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT OFFER, BUT THAT KIM SEEMS BENT ON MOVING ACTION OUT OF ASSEMBLY.

6. IN LATEST DEVELOPMENT NDP POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL HAS SCHEDULED EVENING NOV 13 PLANS TO DISCUSS CONTENT KIM YONG-SAM'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND MAKE DECISION AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT NDP EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES.
SNEIDER

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